

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application. Claims 9-15 are allowed and Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103. Claims 1-8 are amended herein.

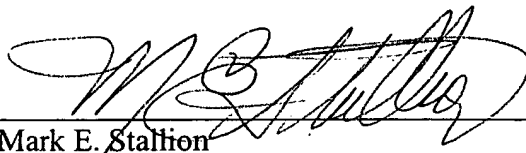
Independent claim 1 is amended to recite a protective hood having a circumferentially connected neck seal, combined with the other limitations, which is not anticipated, taught or suggested by the references. Independent Claim 1 has been amended to add a limitation for a protective hood having a neck seat, thus the claim is now directed to hood and neck seal arrangement. This amendment overcomes the Flatland reference as Flatland does not teach or suggest this combination. This amendment is made in accordance with the Examiner interview conducted on April 27, 2005.

If any issue regarding the allowability of any of the pending claims in the present application could be readily resolved, or if other action could be taken to further advance this application such as an Examiner's amendment, or if the Examiner should have any questions regarding the present amendment, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner please telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney in this regard.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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